



Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
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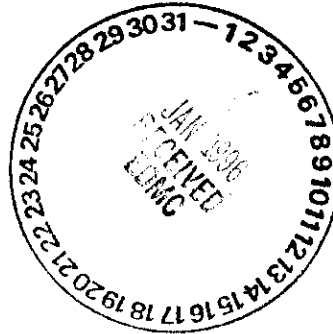
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Mr. Steve M. Alexander
Perimeter Area Section Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
1315 W. 4th Avenue
Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018

Mr. Douglas R. Sherwood
Hanford Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
712 Swift Blvd., Suite 5
Richland, Washington 99352



Dear Messrs. Alexander and Sherwood:

TRANSMITTAL OF SUGGESTED WORDING FOR THE 100-FR-3 OPERABLE UNIT FOCUS SHEET

Attached is a draft of suggested wording for the 100-FR-3 Operable Unit Focus Sheet. This transmittal will meet the requirements for interim milestone M-15-13H, "Submit a Draft Focus Sheet for 100-FR-3 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Washington Department of Ecology by December 31, 1995.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Arlene Tortoso at 373-9631.

Sincerely,

P.F.X. Dunigan, Jr., Administrator
Hanford Tri-Party Agreement

K. Michael Thompson, Senior Project Manager
Groundwater Project

GWP:ACT

Attachment

cc w/attach:
R. L. Biggerstaff, BHI
P. S. Innis, EPA

100-FR-3 Groundwater Remediation Focus Sheet

The 100-FR-3 Groundwater Operable Unit is one of three operable units associated with the 100-F Reactor near the Columbia River. The other two operable units, 100-FR-1 and 100-FR-2, include contaminated soil sites.

The 100-FR-3 Operable Unit was evaluated as a candidate for an interim cleanup action. However, information gathered on 100-FR-3 groundwater indicates that no interim action is required at this time to protect human health or the environment. This recommendation is based on the U.S. Department of Energy retaining control of security and access to the site until final action is taken, thus preventing direct human use of the groundwater. Chromium, the primary contaminant of concern, has been detected in the 100-FR-3 near-river wells, but at levels which are unlikely to cause risk to the environment including ecological receptors in the river. Additionally, samples have been taken from the seeps where groundwater discharges onto the shoreline. Levels of chromium in these seep samples do not exceed surface water quality standards. Several wells located in the reactor area inland from the river have produced groundwater samples with concentrations slightly above the surface water quality standard. However, these wells are a significant distance from the river, and it is expected that dispersion as chromium migrates toward the river will result in concentrations below surface water quality standards at the river.

The agencies believe the best way to protect the groundwater and the Columbia River is to focus limited resources on remediation of sources and groundwater plumes in areas with higher potential to impact the Columbia River in the near future. The 100-FR-3 groundwater will be re-evaluated as part of the final remedy selection process. In addition, the 100-FR-3 groundwater will continue to be monitored until the final remedy has been selected. If in the future it is determined that chromium concentrations in groundwater increase or change resulting in changes in risk, further actions to protect human health and the environment will be evaluated.

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